

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency  
Caroline County FSA Office  
9194 Legion Road, Suite 2  
Denton MD 21629  
(410) 479-1202**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR FARM LOAN PROGRAM PROJECT**

**Class II Assessment  
for Maryland based producer with operations in  
Caroline County, Maryland at  
Tax Map 0043, Grid 0016, Parcel 0115**

**Notice of Availability  
(NOA)**

**December 11, 2015**

**COVER SHEET**

## **Proposed Action**

The Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture proposes to issue a direct and guaranteed loan to fund the construction of three poultry houses and the associated manure shed in Caroline County, Maryland on a farm tract identified as Tax Map 0043, Grid 0016, Parcel 0115.

## **Type of Statement**

This is a Class II site-specific Environmental Assessment performed in conformation with the scope and limitations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA.)

## **Lead Agency**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## **Cooperating Agencies**

USDA, Farm Service Agency is tasked with completing the environmental analysis concerning this project. Input and assistance is being sought out by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Caroline County Soil Conservation District; the Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance who consults with and request input from their cooperating agencies including (but not limited to) the Maryland Historical Trust /State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO,) State Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental which also encompasses those charged with Coastal Zone Management (CZM), and Maryland Department of Transportation; as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## **Further Information**

Deanna Dunning, Farm Loan Officer  
Caroline County Farm Service Agency  
9194 Legion Road, Suite 2  
Denton, MD 21629  
Deanna.dunning@md.usda.gov  
(410) 479-1202 ext. 107

## **Abstract (Summary)**

The purpose of the project is to produce integrated poultry in Caroline County, Maryland. Construction of three (3) poultry houses, each being 60' x 600', a

manure storage structure, and storm water management pond is proposed at the site. The location of the proposed facility is currently cropland. Upon completion of the proposed construction, the farm is projected to have the capacity to house a maximum of 144,000 birds based on the industry standard density of 0.75 birds per square foot of interior space.

## **Comments**

It is recommended that comments be put in writing. Comments from interested parties concerning the environmental impact of this proposal should be directed thru:

USDA, Farm Service Agency  
Farm Loan Program  
Attn: Deanna Dunning  
9194 Legion Road, Suite 2  
Denton MD 21629

The comment period will conclude fifteen (15) days from the final publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA). No further action will be taken on this proposal until after the conclusion of the comment period and the completion of the review. Said comments will be considered and incorporated.

## Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 5
Background	
Purpose and Need	
Regulatory Compliance	
Organization of EA	
Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives	Page 6
Proposed Action	

## Introduction

The applicant is wishing to enter into a contract to be an integrated poultry producer with the operation located at Iron Gate Road, Federalsburg, Maryland, Caroline County. The applicant will produce poultry per a contractual agreement with Perdue Farms. The operation will have the capacity to house approximately 144,000 birds at the industry standard of .75 birds per square foot.

### **1.1** Background

The project is designed to construct three (3) broiler houses, the associated manure structure and a storm water management pond on a 169.47 acre parcel the applicant is seeking to purchase near Federalsburg, Maryland. The site will have a capacity of 144,000 birds at the industry standard of .75 birds per square foot. The proposal is to build three (3) poultry houses, each being 60' x 600', with all houses on the property running northeast to southwest. The houses will be built to industry standards and must be compliant with all county and state building laws. An approved storm water management, site and sediment/erosion control plan, permit for General Stormwater Discharge, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, permit from MDE NonTidal Wetland Divisions, and a Federal Consistency Determination will be required prior to the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

### **1.2** Purpose and Need

The purpose of the FSA Farm Loan Program is to establish, improve, expand transition, and strengthen farms.

The proposed facility, upon completion, will allow the applicant to produce integrated poultry in an Perdue Farms compliant facility in Caroline County, Maryland. The applicant will be providing an agriculture service that is in great demand and this enterprise will allow the producer to generate adequate income from the farming operation to retire debt and provide a standard of living acceptable to the area. This facility will allow the applicant to produce integrated poultry for Perdue Farms efficiently and in up to date structures.

The integrator, will in turn, provide additional employment for local people in jobs such as field representatives, feed mill operators, processing plant workers, truck drivers, and construction workers. In addition, the increased volume of poultry production will help contribute toward providing a readily available low cost food supply for the American public.

### **1.3** Regulatory Compliance

Based on a review of the material provided and FSA Handbook 1 EQ, 2 EQ, and FMHA 1940-G this proposal is in compliance with NEPA, CEQ, Potential Relevant Environmental Laws, and Executive Orders.

#### **1.4 Organization of EA**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is organized in format established in FSA Handbook 1 EQ Exhibit 21 and is addressed in the Contents Section of this document.

## **2 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives**

### **2.1 Proposed Action**

The project is designed to construct three (3) poultry houses compliant with Perdue Farms standards on a 169.47 acre tract near Federalsburg, Maryland. Upon completion, the site will have a total capacity of 144,000 birds. The site work will be completed and the houses built by local reputable contractors in accordance with plans and specs required by Perdue Farms, Caroline County Soil Conservation District and the Caroline County Planning and Zoning office. The proposal includes the construction of a manure storage structure that will provide adequate storage for the litter generated by the houses to be built. A storm water management pond will be installed on the property as well as swales located between the poultry houses to control runoff. The site plan was designed in accordance with the Model Plan for Poultry House Site Development on Maryland's Eastern Shore, developed by MDE, MDA, NRCS and the Conservation Districts.